



# VITA/TCE Volunteer Tax Alert (VTA)

*Thank you for volunteering and for your dedication to top QUALITY service!*

<b>VTA Number</b>	VTA-2015-03
<b>Date Issued</b>	January 12, 2015
<b>Tax Law Topic</b>	<b>Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014</b>
<b>Tax Law Change</b>	<p>The Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014 was signed into law by the President on Friday, December 19, 2014. It includes several provisions, commonly known as “extenders,” that were extended through December 31, 2014. Several of these provisions are within scope for VITA/TCE. They include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deduction for certain expenses of elementary and secondary school teachers</li><li>• Exclusion from gross income of discharge of qualified principal residence indebtedness (COD certification only)</li><li>• Mortgage insurance premiums treated as qualified residence interest</li><li>• Deduction of State and local general sales taxes in lieu of State and local income taxes</li><li>• Above-the-line deduction for qualified tuition and related expenses</li><li>• Tax-free distributions from individual retirement plans for charitable purposes</li><li>• Credit for nonbusiness energy property</li></ul>
<b>How to Review the Training</b>	<p>Publication 4491-X, <i>VITA/TCE Training Supplement</i> (revision date 1/2015), contains supplemental training on the extended provisions that should be added to existing Publications 4491 and 4012. The separate optional training for exclusion from gross income of discharge of qualified principal residence indebtedness is included in the new Publication 5182, <i>VITA/TCE Specialty Course Cancellation of Debt (COD) Principal Residence</i>. Both publications are available for download from <a href="http://www.irs.gov">www.irs.gov</a>.</p>
<b>How to Certify</b>	<p>There is no separate certification for the extended provisions. Volunteers may choose to certify in the optional COD module. Please see the separate Volunteer Tax Alert containing those instructions. Volunteers can access the VITA/TCE online certification tests at <a href="https://www.linklearncertification.com">https://www.linklearncertification.com</a>.</p>
<b>Volunteers' Role</b>	<p>VITA/TCE tax preparers must review the supplemental training on the extended provisions before assisting taxpayers with tax law questions or preparing their returns. Quality reviewers must also review this information before performing quality reviews.</p>
<b>Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Publication 4491X</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Publication 5182</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Link &amp; Learn Taxes online certification site</a></li></ul>

*For additional questions, please talk to your site coordinator, partner, or IRS SPEC relationship manager.*